UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1768
8 November 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• Security Council establishes International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to try persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law; resolution adopted by 13 votes in favour to one against (Rwanda), with one abstention (China).

• Secretary-General discusses deteriorating situation in Rwanda with senior United Nations official in Geneva; dispatch of security force to refugee camps and convening of regional conference among options under consideration.

• General Committee decides to include issue of capital punishment in agenda of current General Assembly session; item to be allocated to Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.

• In report to Security Council, Secretary-General says it is not yet possible to set date for Western Sahara referendum; notes slow progress in process of identifying voters.

• Board of Auditors should investigate large peace-keeping operations whose expenditures exceed annual regular budget of United Nations, speakers tell Administrative and Budgetary Committee.

• Kuwait says recent threats and military movements confirm Iraqi regime's non-peaceful intentions towards it and rest of region; stresses that Iraq must follow through on declaration of intent to recognize its sovereignty and borders.

• With 28 per cent of polling stations reporting, FRELIMO leads RENAMO in Mozambican vote count.

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Acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council today established the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The Tribunal will prosecute persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Rwanda, and Rwandan

citizens responsible for such crimes in neighbouring countries, between 1 January and 31 December 1994. The Council took that action by adopting resolution 955 (1994) by 13 votes in favour to one against (Rwanda), with one abstention (China). The Statute of the Tribunal was contained in an annex to the resolution.

The Council said that all States should cooperate fully with the International Tribunal and its organs, and that they should take any measures necessary under their domestic law to implement resolution 955 (1994) and the Statute. It requested the Secretary-General to implement the resolution urgently, and in particular to make practical arrangements for the Tribunal's effective functioning, including recommendations as to possible locations for its seat. The Council said that it would determine the seat having regard to considerations of justice and fairness as well as administrative efficiency, including economy and access to witnesses, and subject to the conclusion of appropriate arrangements between the United Nations and the State of the seat.

The Council went on to say that the International Tribunal might meet away from its seat when it considered it necessary for the efficient exercise of its functions. The Council decided that an office would be established and proceedings conducted in Rwanda, where feasible and appropriate, subject to the conclusion of appropriate arrangements.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met with senior United Nations officials in Geneva to discuss the situation in Rwanda and its effects on neighbouring countries. He later told correspondents that the situation was deteriorating and that the meeting had focused on interconnected problems related to security in the refugee camps; the return of refugees; technical assistance to the Government; reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country; and coordination between different agencies and programmes.

The Secretary-General said that he would meet with major donor countries after returning to New York on Wednesday, and that he would subsequently present certain options to the Security Council. Among the options under consideration were the dispatch of a police force or rapid deployment force to the refugee camps, and the convening of a regional conference to discuss the situation. He stressed that Rwanda's problems could not be solved without massive support from donor countries.

Participating in today's meeting were the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala Lasso; the Military Adviser for Peace-keeping Operations, Major-General Maurice Baril; the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), Catherine Bertini; the United Nations Legal Adviser, Hans Corell; Ambassador Robert Dillon; the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding; the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen; the Special Representative for Rwanda, Shahryar Khan; Special Adviser Ismat Kittani; the United Nations High

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Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata; the Special Representative for Burundi, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah; and a representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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The General Committee last night decided by consensus that an additional item entitled "Capital Punishment" should be included in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly. It further decided that it be allocated to the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) under an agenda item on human rights questions. That proposal was approved by 17 votes in favour to none against, with three abstentions.

A request for the inclusion of the item in the Assembly's agenda was made in a note to the Secretary-General by 26 States. In an explanatory memorandum, they stated that the question of capital punishment had become particularly urgent in recent times, in view of the continuing high number of death sentences and executions in various parts of the world. Annexed to the memorandum was a draft resolution by which the Assembly would encourage all Member States to consider introducing legislation which would lead to the abolition of the death penalty, thus promoting full respect for the right to life.

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It will be many months before a date can be determined for the referendum in Western Sahara and the revised timetable for the steps still to be taken to implement the settlement plan, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 5 November, he said more progress was needed in the process of identifying potential voters. Only a small proportion of applications had been dealt with since identification and registration started on 28 August. The operation had greatly increased in scale as a result of a last-minute flood of applications, and was far more logistically complex than had been expected.

The Secretary-General said he would report to the Security Council on the organization and timing of the referendum after his visit to the area later this month. In the meantime, he would dispatch a technical team to reassess logistical and other requirements for the possible deployment of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) at full strength. He proposed to maintain the Mission's existing military and civilian strength until his next report to the Council.

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The United Nations Board of Auditors should investigate large peace-keeping operations such as the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) whose expenditures exceeded the Organization's annual regular budget, the representative of Germany told the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) today. Speaking also on behalf of the European Union and Austria, he said he shared the view of the Advisory Committee on

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Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that some of the larger operations might have to be dealt with separately in future.

Speaking on the review of the Organization's efficiency, the representative of Benin said the restructuring of the Secretariat should ensure that programmes for the development of Africa were adequately funded. The Department of Public Information (DPI) should help counter "Afro-pessimism" by providing balanced coverage of developments in the continent.

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Recent threats and movements of military forces by Iraq confirm its non-peaceful intentions towards Kuwait and the rest of the region, the Permanent Representative of Kuwait has said in a letter to the Security Council dated 4 November. He added that those actions undermined any trust the international community might have in Iraq, and placed a question mark over claims that it wished to continue to cooperate in the implementation of Council resolutions.

The joint communiqué issued by the Russian Federation and Iraq on 13 October, in which Iraq affirmed its readiness to resolve in a positive manner the issue of recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty and boundaries, was a declaration of intent, not a legal or political commitment, he continued. It would remain a declaration of intent if not followed by specific measures by the highest constitutional authorities in Iraq.

He went on to say that all of the relevant Security Council resolutions should be regarded as a means to an end: to ensure full respect for Kuwait's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and international boundaries; to secure the return of prisoners and detainees; and to guarantee the establishment of peace, security and stability in the region. That end would be difficult to achieve without peaceful intentions, in word or deed, on the part of the Iraqi regime.

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With some 28 per cent of the 7,500 polling stations in the recent Mozambican elections reporting, the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) has 52 per cent of the vote, while the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) has 30 per cent, a United Nations spokesman said today. Smaller parties account for the balance.

Meanwhile, President Joaquim Chissano has 62 per cent of the vote in the presidential election, while RENAMO's Afonso Dhlakama has 27 per cent, the spokesman continued. He stressed that those results were partial, and that the final results would not be available until 12 or 13 November.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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9 November 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council hears calls for lifting of arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bosnian representative says status quo is unacceptable; Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) warns of uncontrollable escalation of conflict.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement yesterday, welcomes joint decision of Tajik Government and opposition to extend cease-fire agreement until 6 February 1995.

+ Secretary-General, back in New York, voices concern at reports of renewed hostile acts between Iran and Iraq; urges both sides to exercise maximum restraint.

+ General Assembly approves report of Preparatory Committee for Fiftieth Anniversary of United Nations; welcomes commemorative programme for occasion.

+ Special Representative for former Yugoslavia expresses grave concern at deteriorating military situation in Sarajevo; appeals to parties not to endanger safe areas or civilians.

+ United Nations launches inter-agency appeal for $242 million for humanitarian operations in former Yugoslavia in first half of 1995.

+ General Assembly elects 18 States to fill vacancies in Economic and Social Council as of 1 January 1995.

+ Special Commission on disarmament of Iraq starts contingency planning for incremental closure of operations because of shortage of funds; needs $5 million in December to continue current activities.

+ Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee hears statement by UNHCR as it considers refugees and related issues; approves draft resolutions on right to self-determination and elimination of racial discrimination.

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For information media—not an official record

Numerous Member States have called on the Security Council to lift the arms embargo against the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Those calls were made at a meeting which began yesterday and continued today, after Pakistan requested that the Council consider the recent General Assembly resolution encouraging it to take such action.

The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina said the application of the arms embargo against both the victim and the well-armed aggressor had failed to bring about peace. "I'm afraid we have reached a point of last resort -- the last resort is the status quo", he stressed. He went on to say that there was no peace for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to keep, and that the benefits of the Force's presence were being outweighed by the costs to the Bosnian people. The representative of Pakistan, speaking also as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, said the Council should respond swiftly to the recent General Assembly resolution. It should also declare the 51 per cent of the territory proposed for the Muslim-Croat Federation a "safe area".

The representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) warned that lifting the arms embargo would lead to an uncontrollable escalation of the conflict. He said the Council, acting in a one-sided manner, had almost exclusively blamed the Bosnian Serbs for the conflict and for whatever atrocities were committed, ignoring acts committed by the Muslims and the Croats. The representative of Croatia said the Council had imposed an arms embargo on the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia -- a State that had ceased to exist. Instead of perpetuating a mistake, it should consider how lifting the embargo would contribute to a new balance of power in the region. The representative of France warned that the pursuit of a military solution in Bosnia and Herzegovina would halt the political process and lead to the withdrawal of UNPROFOR.

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The Security Council has welcomed the joint decision of the Tajik Government and opposition to extend to 6 February 1995 the 17 September Agreement on a temporary cease-fire and cessation of hostile acts in Tajikistan. In a statement read out yesterday by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States), the Council also welcomed the signing of the Protocol of the Joint Commission charged with monitoring the Agreement.

The Council welcomed the reaffirmation by the parties to resolve the conflict through political means and the agreement to hold the next round of talks in early December in Moscow. It emphasized the importance of full and timely implementation by the parties of their obligations. Reaffirming its support for the Secretary-General's efforts to facilitate the political dialogue between the parties, the Council invited them to make all necessary efforts to achieve further progress in the next round of talks. It also asked the Secretary-General to present recommendations on the United Nations role in implementation of the agreements.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, back in New York after visiting several countries, today expressed concern at reports of a renewal of hostile acts between Iran and Iraq. He urged both sides to exercise maximum restraint and to refrain from all such acts which could only lead to an increase of tension in the area.

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The General Assembly today welcomed the commemorative programme being formulated by the secretariat of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. It requested that emphasis continue to be placed on the development of programmes addressing the general public, in particular youth and children.

In a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly approved the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. It decided that the Committee should continue its work and report to the Assembly at its fiftieth session and/or during the forty-ninth session, as required. The Assembly will hold a special commemorative meeting for the fiftieth anniversary at Headquarters from 22 to 24 October 1995.

In a second resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly endorsed the creation of a United Nations Fiftieth Anniversary Coin Programme. It also endorsed the offer of the United Kingdom Royal Mint to manage that programme and requested the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to implement it.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi has expressed grave concern at the deterioration in the military situation in Sarajevo in recent days. He called attention to increasing violations of agreements regarding the Mount Igman demilitarized zone, the Sarajevo cease-fire and heavy-weapons exclusion zone, and the cessation of sniping. Saying he was particularly disturbed by the reported deaths of four civilians -- three of them children -- yesterday, he urged both warring parties to make every effort to avoid civilian casualties and provocative acts.

Mr. Akashi noted a general increase in the level of hostilities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, and appealed to the parties to refrain from military action which endangered safe areas and the civilians in them. He stressed that humanitarian agencies and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were doing everything possible to alleviate civilian suffering, and reiterated the need for the warring parties to accept a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

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The United Nations today launched a revised inter-agency appeal for $242 million to provide humanitarian assistance to the former Yugoslavia for the first six months of 1995. The appeal was issued jointly by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen, and the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata. They noted that while some regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina were benefiting from a cessation of hostilities, civilians in other areas suffered harassment and insecurity, and were subject to ethnic expulsion. Those civilians were in extreme need of international protection and assistance, they said.

Refugees and internally displaced persons continue to need emergency assistance, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs), according to the appeal. Continuing unrest and ethnic conflict in the Bihac pocket in northern Bosnia has resulted in fresh outflows of refugees, while the unsettled situation in eastern Bosnia could give rise to an exodus there. Meanwhile, assistance is still needed in Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where the situation has stabilized somewhat.

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The General Assembly yesterday elected the following 18 States to fill vacancies in the 54-member Economic and Social Council: Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda and the United States. The new members will serve three-year terms, beginning on 1 January 1995.

The election was held to fill seats being vacated by Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Kuwait, Madagascar, Philippines, Poland, Suriname, Swaziland and the United States. States are eligible for immediate re-election.

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The United Nations Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq is so short of funds that it has started contingency planning for the incremental closure of its operations. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 3 November, the Executive Chairman of the Commission warned that if adequate funds were not received, non-resident inspection teams would cease to be deployed into Iraq on or about 15 December. Resident monitoring teams would gradually halt operations as personnel would not be replaced. Ongoing monitoring and verification support teams would not carry biological and chemical monitoring equipment into Iraq in December, and would begin to remove remote site cameras and other sensor equipment in January. Meanwhile, operational and analytical staff in New York would be dispersed.

The Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would continue to carry out their duties for as long as possible, and to seek the necessary funds, the Executive Chairman stressed. If operations and planning were to continue at the present level, $5 million dollars would be needed in December. A total of $25 million would be needed in 1995, including the $5 million for December.

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A proposal to deploy international police and/or military personnel to refugee camps in eastern Zaire will be presented to the Security Council within days, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today. Introducing reports on refugees and related issues, she said such a deployment, which had been agreed on yesterday at a meeting chaired by the Secretary-General, was needed because of insecurity in the camps. She added that the forces of the former Rwandese regime were endangering the lives of refugees and humanitarian workers, disrupting aid deliveries, and obstructing voluntary repatriation to Rwanda.

Yesterday, acting without a vote, the Third Committee approved a draft resolution on the right to self-determination and two drafts on the elimination of racial discrimination. By the draft on self-determination, the General Assembly would declare its firm opposition to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation. It would also call on States responsible to immediately cease their military intervention in, and occupation of, foreign territories and all acts of repression and maltreatment.

By another draft, States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would be urged to take measures to enable the entry into force of certain amendments to the Convention. Those amendments would call for the Secretary-General to provide for the effective performance of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which monitors implementation of the Convention. The other anti-racism text would have the Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to ensure adequate financial arrangements to enable the Committee to function. It would also urge States parties to the Convention to accelerate their domestic ratification of the amendment concerning the Committee's financing.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council terminates Trusteeship Agreement for Palau -- last remaining United Nations Trust Territory; says aims of Agreement have been fully met following Compact of Free Association with United States.

+ Secretary-General reiterates offer of good offices to promote renewed dialogue between Albania and Greece; discusses situations in several African countries with Second Deputy President of South Africa; voices concern about deteriorating conditions in Angola.

+ Government of Angola reaffirms its determination to formally sign Lusaka Protocol as scheduled, noting international pessimism; says it has no intention of resolving Angolan conflict militarily.

+ United Nations launches inter-agency appeal for $106 million to fund emergency programmes for Afghanistan for one year; focuses on victims of war in Kabul and returning refugees and displaced persons.

+ Bihac ammunition factory destroyed in missile attack by aircraft flying over Serb-held territory in Croatia; Bosnian airspace possibly violated in incident.

+ Committee on Relations with Host Country, adopting report to General Assembly, reminds all missions and diplomatic personnel to meet their financial obligations.

+ United Nations operations could lose support of international community if safety of personnel is not ensured, Japan tells Legal Committee; stresses need to protect humanitarian workers.

+ Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention visits Bhutan and Viet Nam at invitation of State authorities; meets with ministers, police officials and prisoners.

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For information media—not an official record

The Security Council today terminated the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement for Palau, the Organization's last Trust Territory. In light of the entry into force on 1 October of a Compact of Free Association between Palau and the Administering Authority, the United States, the Council determined that the objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement had been fully attained. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 956 (1994).

The Trusteeship Council made the same determination on 1 November when it formally suspended its operations after nearly half a century. In future, it will meet only on an extraordinary, as-needed basis. Palau's status as a "strategic area" required that the Trusteeship Agreement be terminated by a Security Council decision.

In today's resolution, the Security Council expressed satisfaction that the people of Palau had freely exercised their right to self-determination, approving the new status agreement in a plebiscite observed by a Trusteeship Council mission.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali remains committed to his offer of good offices with a view to promoting a renewal of dialogue between Albania and Greece, a United Nations spokesman said today. He recalled that the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Rosario Green, had discussed relations between the two countries during a meeting with the Permanent Representative of Greece.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with the Second Deputy President of South Africa, F.W. de Klerk, and discussed the situations in Angola, Mozambique and Rwanda, among other topics. He expressed concern at the deterioration of the situation in Angola following the initialling of a peace accord by the parties there, and expressed hope that they would continue to strive for peace.

The Secretary-General said he hoped that the next phase of the Mozambican peace process would go smoothly following the recent national elections. He thanked the Second Deputy President for South Africa's positive contribution to that process, and stressed the importance of its role in the post-electoral period. Mr. de Klerk thanked the Secretary-General for appointing a United Nations Resident Coordinator in South Africa, and assured him that the country would play an active role in the commemoration of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary next year.

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The Government of Angola has reaffirmed its determination to formally sign the Lusaka Protocol as agreed last month. It made that reaffirmation in a letter to the Security Council dated 9 November, "in view of the climate of pessimism that has arisen internationally" with regard to the Angolan peace process. The Government said it would send a military delegation to Lusaka to begin discussions with the military leaders of the Union for the Total

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Independence of Angola (UNITA) so that the Protocol could be signed on 15 November.

The Government also reaffirmed that it had no intention of resolving the Angolan conflict militarily. It believed that the upcoming talks with UNITA would establish the conditions for a return to peace and national reconciliation, and that all Angolans could live together under a framework of mutual respect and political tolerance.

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The United Nations today launched a new inter-agency appeal for $106 million to fund emergency programmes for Afghanistan for one year beginning 1 October 1994. Those programmes deal with internally displaced persons, mine clearance, voluntary repatriation, food aid, water supply and sanitation, and health and education. The appeal focuses on the needs of the victims of the war in Kabul and on easing the burden on areas absorbing returning refugees and displaced persons.

Relief and food aid for internally displaced persons together account for some $40 million of the total amount sought. An estimated 900,000 people have been displaced by the conflict in Afghanistan, and some 650,000 are currently dispersed around the country in camps and private dwellings. In addition, 250,000 people are living in camps near Jalalabad, with 1,000 more arriving daily from Kabul.

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The Bosnian town of Bihac yesterday came under missile attack from an aircraft flying over Serb-held territory in Croatia, according to a United Nations spokesman. An ammunition factory on the outskirts of the town was destroyed in the attack, and there were casualties among workers and others.

The spokesman noted that the aircraft had been tracked by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) after taking off from a military airfield in the Krajina area, and that it may have briefly violated Bosnian airspace. A senior United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) civilian official visited Knin today to protest the incident.

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The Committee on Relations with the Host Country today reminded all permanent missions, their personnel and Secretariat personnel of their responsibilities to meet their financial obligations. It requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly with recommendations on how to address the issue.

By adopting its report to the Assembly, the Committee took note of concerns expressed by the host country and others regarding the growing problem of financial indebtedness. It requested that the Committee Chairman and the host country meet with the Secretary-General to discuss the issue,

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which had harmed the image of the United Nations and its Members in New York and impaired the ability of some missions and diplomats to obtain services and accommodation. The Committee also noted that the issue of indebtedness had arisen in other cities hosting United Nations offices and might require a system-wide response.

The Committee also expressed the hope that remaining travel restrictions on personnel of certain missions and Secretariat staff members of certain nationalities would be removed by the host country as soon as possible. It went on to express appreciation for the efforts made by the host country to ensure the security of missions and the safety of their personnel.

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If measures are not taken to ensure the safety of United Nations personnel, the Organization's operations will be unable to discharge their responsibilities effectively and could lose the support of the international community, the representative of Japan told the Sixth Committee (Legal) yesterday. The Committee was continuing its debate on a draft convention on the question of responsibility for attacks against United Nations personnel.

The Japanese representative went on to say that personnel involved in humanitarian operations often worked in dangerous situations and were in even greater need of protection than peace-keepers. However, under the terms of the draft, they were not covered unless the Security Council or the General Assembly declared the existence of exceptional risk, whereas peace-keeping personnel were automatically covered. He stressed that there should be no differentiation between peace-keeping and humanitarian operations.

The Chinese representative said the draft did not meet certain requirements. The term "United Nations operations" should address peace-keeping operations aimed at maintaining international peace and security. The consent and cooperation of the State or the parties concerned should be ensured, and such operations should be under the command and control of the United Nations. The convention should only cover operations authorized by the Security Council, and should reiterate the principles of State sovereignty and non-intervention in internal affairs. The representative of Malaysia said the adoption of a convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel would send a clear signal that acts of violence against them would not be tolerated by the international community.

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The Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has visited Bhutan and Viet Nam at the invitation of the authorities in those countries. In Bhutan from 17 to 22 October, the Group was granted two audiences with the King, and had meetings with Government ministers, judicial authorities, and those responsible for the police and the administration of the penitentiary system. It also visited places of detention and met with prisoners without constraints or witnesses. The Group then presented recommendations which the King said would be applied without delay.

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From 24 to 31 October, the Working Group was in Viet Nam, where it had meetings with State and local authorities. It visited education and rehabilitation-through-work centres, and was able to meet with prisoners, in some cases without witnesses. The Group, which returned to Geneva on 7 November, will report on its visits to the Human Rights Commission during its next session from 30 January to 10 March 1995.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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11 November 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General reports to Security Council on his recent visits to United Kingdom, France, Romania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova, and subsequent meetings in Geneva; says cooperation between United Nations and NATO is excellent.

+ Former Rwandan leaders must be removed from camps in Zaire to assure safety of returning refugees, Rwanda tells Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee; Haiti calls for international assistance programmes to reinforce its democracy.

+ Heavy fighting continues in Bihac pocket in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Serb forces reportedly massing at border in neighbouring Croatia.

+ Pledges worth $154 million announced for UNHCR programmes in 1995; General Assembly President says agency needs $1 billion.

+ IAEA Board of Governors authorizes secretariat to proceed with inspection tasks in Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as requested by Security Council.

+ Guatemalan Government and URNG, meeting in Mexico, discuss identity and rights of indigenous peoples; stress commitment to achieving agreement for firm and lasting peace in Guatemala.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today reported orally to the Security Council on his recent visits to the United Kingdom, France, Romania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova. He also reported on the results of his subsequent meetings in Geneva.

He later told correspondents that he had discussed the situation between Azerbaijan and Armenia with the Presidents of both countries during his two-week tour, and expressed the hope that it would be resolved peacefully.

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For information media—not an official record

He had also held discussions on the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict, and noted that Special Envoy Edouard Brunner would chair a meeting in Geneva on 14 November with a view to accelerating the return of Georgian refugees.

While in Geneva, the Secretary-General had had a very long meeting with his Special Representatives for Rwanda and Burundi, Shahryar Khan and Ahmedou Ould Abdallah. They had focused on the problem of security in refugee camps and the difficulties confronting the United Nations, the importance of offering bilateral assistance to the Rwandan Government, and the need to encourage the return of refugees.

The Secretary-General had also discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg; Special Representative Yasushi Akashi; and the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Bertrand de Sauville de Lapresle. He stressed that cooperation between the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was excellent, based on the principles of the dual-key approach and the proportionality of air strikes. He added that he would receive the NATO Secretary-General at Headquarters in the coming days to discuss reinforcing the links between the two Organizations.

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Rwanda's former political and military leaders must be removed from camps in eastern Zaire to assure the safety of refugees returning home, the representative of Rwanda told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) yesterday. He said that the possible deployment of an international police force in the camps and the establishment of safer conditions in Rwanda would be crucial to the successful return of more than 2.2 million refugees. He made those comments as the Committee concluded its consideration of refugees and related issues.

The representative of Burundi called attention to the needs of the 580,000 people who had fled his country. Governments had a duty to provide those people with a reason to live, to hope and to rebuild their lives, he added. The representative of Haiti deplored the fact that repression and instability had forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee her country. Fortunately, hope had arisen since the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. Now more than ever, the international community must resume assistance programmes to provide the Haitian people with a modicum of stability, without which democracy could not survive.

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Fighting continued in the Bihac pocket yesterday, and heavy shelling caused some civilian fatalities, according to a United Nations spokesman. Meanwhile, Serb troops were seen massing at the border in neighbouring Croatia.

There were reports that the Serbs were recruiting, and possibly conscripting, refugees from Bihac who had crossed into Croatia, the spokesman

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said. He added that such a development could jeopardize the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Serb forces were also preventing the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from supplying its peace-keepers in the area, leading to food shortages. Special Representative Akashi met with the authorities in Pale today to discuss the situation.

In a separate development, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has announced that it will send a three-person team to Knin and Pale next week to discuss practical cooperation with the Tribunal and to obtain documentary evidence relevant to work of the Prosecutor's Office.

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Pledges worth some $154 million were made today at a meeting of the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Those pledges will fund UNHCR programmes in 1995.

In an opening statement, General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) said the contributions announced today would directly affect 23 million refugees and other persons who depended on the UNHCR. For the fourth year, the agency's financial requirements would exceed $1 billion. While emergency needs, such as those arising in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, were of great concern, support for repatriation efforts was also vital.

High Commissioner Sadako Ogata noted that the budget and staff of the UNHCR had doubled in recent years. Working in over 200 locations around the world, the agency faced enormous demands. The UNHCR Executive Committee had recently approved a general programme budget for 1995 of $415 million and noted special programme needs of $695 million. She said that the largest portion of the 1995 budget -- $127 million -- was needed for Africa, where the UNHCR assisted over 7 million refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.

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The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), meeting in special session in Vienna, today authorized the secretariat to act on the Security Council's request concerning inspections in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. That request was contained in a statement by the Security Council President on 4 November.

The Board welcomed the fact that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would remain in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and that it would comply fully with the nuclear Safeguards Agreement.

Following the Board's action, the IAEA will inform the Democratic People's Republic about the measures it deems appropriate to implement the

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safeguards and to monitor the freeze of specified facilities. The Agency's Director-General will report to the Board of Governors and to the Security Council as appropriate on its activities in that country.

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The Guatemalan Government's Commission for Peace and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) have held a second round of talks on "Identity and rights of indigenous peoples". Meeting from 4 to 9 November in Valle de Bravo, Mexico, they exchanged views on measures to promote the recognition and development of indigenous cultures, particularly the Mayan culture, and to promote the participation of indigenous peoples in all aspects of national life.

In a statement issued after the meeting, the parties said that the issue of indigenous peoples was central to their negotiations and of historic significance for Guatemala. The eradication of discrimination and exploitation could only be achieved through a firm commitment on the part of society as a whole to the identity and rights of indigenous peoples.

The parties decided to meet again informally on 16 and 17 November as guests of the Mexican Government. They requested the moderator of the peace talks to carry out bilateral consultations to facilitate a successful outcome of the third round of talks, to be held from 27 to 30 November. They also reiterated their commitment to achieving an agreement on the identity and rights of indigenous peoples, and an agreement for a firm and lasting peace in Guatemala.

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